

REMARKS

The Examiner's comments from the Office Action mailed February 7, 2008 have been carefully considered. Claims 11 and 14-23 remain pending in the application and claim 26 has been newly added. Support for claim 26 can be found throughout the specification and figures. No new matter has been added.

Reexamination and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,946,440 to Puetz in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,909,833 to Henschel in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,201,921 to Quesnel. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 11 recites, in part, a first cassette defining a groove configured to receive a spindle of a housing through an open end of the groove. A closed end of the groove cooperates with the spindle to form a pivot point about which the first cassette pivots. The first cassette is configured to be separated and removed from the housing by pivoting the first cassette and sliding the first cassette in a direction transverse to the spindle until the spindle passes through the open end of the groove.

Applicants respectfully point out the prior art references must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations to provide a basis for a *prima facie* case of obviousness. MPEP 2143. None of the cited references, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a first cassette defining a groove having a closed end cooperating with a spindle of a housing to form a pivot point about which the first cassette pivots, the groove also having an open end through which the spindle passes when the first cassette is pivoted and slid in a direction transverse to the spindle to separate and remove the first cassette from the housing.

Puetz does not disclose or suggest a cassette defining an open ended groove through which a spindle may pass. In fact, the cassette in Puetz cannot be slid out of the housing. See *Puetz*, col. 5, ll. 27-33. Rather, the cassette defines an enclosed hinge pin opening 208. The Office Action notes the cassette 120 in Puetz can slide and pivot within the housing. However, the disclosed sliding and pivoting motion are not the motions recited in claim 11. The spindle

cannot slide through the hinge pin opening 208 in a direction transverse to the spindle. Rather, the cassette and the spindle to which the cassette attaches slide together with respect to the housing. No motivation is provided in Puetz or elsewhere to modify the pivot mechanism in Puetz to enable cassettes to be slid off the spindle or to be removed from the housing.

Henschel and Quesnel do not overcome the shortcomings of Puetz. Neither reference discloses a cassette configured to pivot about a spindle and to slide off the spindle. Rather, Henschel discloses a tray that can be slid out of the housing, but cannot pivot about a spindle. Quesnel also discloses a removable sliding drawer that does not pivot. Accordingly, neither of these references indicates how the pivoting cassette of Puetz can be modified to slide off the spindle of Puetz.

For at least these reasons, Puetz would not lead a person skilled in the art to the invention of claim 11, even in view of Henschel and Quesnel. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 11 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claims 12-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Puetz in view of Henschel in further view of Quesnel. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 12-23 depend from claim 11 and are allowable over the combination of Puetz, Henschel, and Quesnel for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 11. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 12-23 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

New Claims

Claim 26 has been newly added. Claim 26 recites, in part, a first cassette configured to be separated and removed from a housing by pivoting the first cassette and sliding a spindle of the housing in a direction transverse to the spindle through an open end of a groove defined in the first cassette.

To the extent the above rejections apply to claim 26, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

None of the cited references disclose or suggest a first cassette configured to be separated and removed from a housing by pivoting the first cassette and sliding a spindle of the housing in a direction transverse to the spindle through an open end of a groove defined in the first cassette for at least the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 11. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 26 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Conclusion

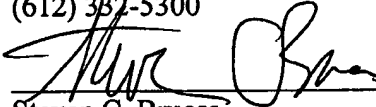
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.



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Respectfully submitted,

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